

Five new records of the Autumnal Snout *Schrankia intermedialis* Reid (Lep.: Noctuidae) from Devon

On the night of 13/14 September 2003, the Rothamsted Insect Survey light-trap at Yarner Wood in Devon (site No. 589, O.S. grid reference SX 786789) caught a single male specimen of *Schrankia intermedialis*, the seventh known in Britain. Subsequently, in 2004 another four specimens, all male, were recorded: one on the night of 5/6 September; two during the period 6-9 September; and a singleton on the night of 11/12 November. The six British records prior to these findings were all from the south-east of the country: four from the Broxbourne Woods complex in Hertfordshire and two from Fagg's Wood in Warehorne, Kent (also a Rothamsted trap). All were males, caught from late September into October.

There are 17 non-British specimens, all also male. The first was netted by Henrik Jeansson at bait in a wooded area of Bejershamn on the Baltic Island of Öland, Sweden on the night of 4/5 October 1995. The specimen was determined from its genitalia by Ingvar Svensson and the finding published (Remarkable records of Macrolepidoptera in Sweden 1995. *Ent. Tidskr.* **117** (1-2): 35-48). Despite the fact that both *S. taenialis* and *S. costaestrigalis* occur in Sweden, this specimen was considered a migrant, having appeared during a fortnight of southerly and south-westerly winds. Other migrants, such as the Gem *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabr.), Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hb.) White-speck *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.) and *Hypena lividalis* (Hb.) were recorded during the same period; the latter two, along with *S. intermedialis*, being new to Sweden.

From 1997 to 2004, as many as 15 individuals have been recorded in Latvia, by Nikolay Savenkov and Ivars Sulcs. They have all been collected as singletons at light between the end of September and early October, from six separate localities, covering almost all of Latvia; although they have occurred predominantly in the west of the country. It is interesting to note that the most productive site, Kemeris, also produces specimens of *S. taenialis* (even though this is rare in Latvia) and *S. costaestrigalis*. In 2004, these records were reported, by the recorders, in "New and rare Lepidoptera for the Latvian fauna: Report No. 15" (*Baptria* **29**: 52-58).

S. intermedialis has also been recorded in Finland, where the only specimen was caught in Virolahti by Marko Mutanen on the night of 20/21 September 2001 and later determined by Jaakko Kullberg of the Finnish Museum of Natural History. This individual, like the Swedish example, was not considered native, having been trapped during a period of strong migration from the south-east. A full report by Kullberg, Albrecht, Kaila and Varis can be found in *A Checklist of Finnish Lepidoptera – Suomen perhosten luettelo (Sahlbergia* **6**: 45-190).

Currently in the U.K., *S. intermedialis* is generally considered to be a rare hybridisation between the White-line Snout *Schrankia taenialis* (Hb.) and the Pinion-streaked Snout *Schrankia costaestrigalis* (Steph.). As its name suggests, it is intermediate in form between these two species, and has only occurred at sites where both others are found. Pairing could occur between the two "parent" species as they both have a July-August flight period, with the hybrids then on the wing later in the

year, as seen in *S. intermedialis*. As yet no female specimens have been recorded and the immature stages are unknown.

As with the other British sites, Yarner Wood annually catches good numbers of *S. taenialis* and *S. costaestrigalis*, and this supports the hybrid theory. The 2004 specimens encompass both the earliest and latest British records thus far, although this may relate to the particular season rather than suggest any new information regarding its status as a species. Further studies to investigate this moth at Yarner Wood are underway, with the hope that a female specimen will be obtained.

Many thanks to Adrian Riley for his assistance in determining these specimens by genitalia; and to Phil Page and Albert Knott of English Nature for their efficient operation of the light-trap at Yarner Wood. Thanks also to Göran Palmqvist for information regarding the Swedish specimen; Jaakko Kullberg for details of the records from Finland and Latvia; Nikolay Savenkov for further information about the Latvian specimens; and Michael Fibiger for providing contact details of fellow continental lepidopterists.— PHILIP J. L. GOULD, Co-ordinator, Light-trap Network, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Plant & Invertebrate Ecology Division, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ (E-mail: phil.gould@bbsrc.ac.uk).

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Access to the type locality (Hoddesdon Park Wood) for *S. intermedialis* is currently “difficult” but light traps have been run over several years at the two other localities within the Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve where the moth was found by originally Jim Reid. At these sites, and in other parts of the woodland complex, *S. costaestrigalis* is caught regularly and *S. taenialis* occasionally, but no examples of *S. intermedialis* have been seen since 1982. As Hertfordshire Moth Recorder I would be very keen indeed to hear from anyone who has records that are not yet “in the system”.

A possible female Remm's Rustic *Mesapamea remmi* (Rezbanyai-Reser) (Lep.:Noctuidae) in Warwickshire

Several *Mesapamea* specimen were sent to MAB for dissection to confirm the presence of the Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis* (L.) and the Lesser Common Rustic *M. didyma* (Esp.) for the forthcoming publication ‘*The Larger Moths of Warwickshire*. This was supposed to be a routine operation and it was with some surprise that a female dated 18 July 1994 from DCGB's garden was found to have a notched ostium. It also lacked the diagnostic feature for differentiating these two common species of a left or a right facing bulbous swelling on the ductus bursae. A light staining with chlorazol black showed that the surface of the bursa copulatrix had many convoluted ridges (Figure 1). Unfortunately, despite using a recessed slide, the ostium distorted slightly when the cover slip was put in place. However, the notch and dark ridge with many very fine setae on either side of the entrance of the ostium can be seen (Figure 2). This is quite unlike either *M. didyma* or *M. secalis*